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Curios and Relics

Weapons

Guns

Owned by Booth

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

June 25, 1936

Colt Arms Company
New York, New York

Gentlemen:

We had a very interesting curio which was shown to us by a man from Texas which we feel you might be interested in acquiring.

The curio in question the owner called a Navy Colt and engraved on the strip in the handle is the name John Wilkes Booth and on the broad piece under the hammer the date 1861.

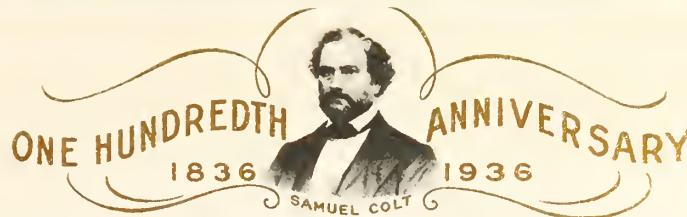
It is my thought that this may have been a gun which John Wilkes Booth used in his theatrical work. The optican barrel is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, the full length of the gun being thirteen inches. It is a 36 caliber. The cylinder number is 4312 and on several other parts of the gun the number 174312 is found. On the barrel is the name Colonel Samuel Colt, New York, U.S.America, and there are engravings of ships upon the barrel.

It appears to me this would be a very interesting item for your museum and we would be very glad to put you in touch with the owner if you are at all interested in its acquisition.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director



COLT'S PATENT FIRE ARMS MANUFACTURING CO.

MAKERS OF HISTORY

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, U.S.A.

20 Vesey Street
New York City
June 30, 1936

Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln Nat. Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren:

We thank you for your letter of June 25th referring to the Colt's Navy Revolver with John Wilkes Booth's name engraved on it and dated 1861.

The factory wouldn't be interested in obtaining this arm for their museum, but the writer has a large collection of Colt's and would be very glad to learn what the party is asking for this arm and if there is anything to authenticate its having belonged to John Wilkes Booth other than the name that is engraved on the arm.

Wish to thank you for bringing this matter to our attention and awaiting your reply,

Very truly yours,

COLT'S PATENT FIRE ARMS MFG. CO.

Albert Foster Jr.
Albert Foster, Jr.
Manager



Manufacturers of

FIRE ARMS - ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT - MOULDED PLASTICS PRODUCTS - DISH & METAL WASHING MACHINES

July 7, 1936

Mr. Albert Foster, Jr., Manager
Colt's Patent Fire Arms Mfg. Co.
20 Vesey Street
New York, New York

My dear Mr. Foster:

It appears to me that the Colt's Navy Revolver with John Wilkes Booth's name engraved on it is genuine although the owner does not have any affidavit as to its origin. The date 1861, it appears to me to have been placed there at the time the pistol was acquired and if there had been any attempt at forging the name or date, I think the date of Lincoln's assassination would have been used instead of the year of 1861.

It appears to me this type of pistol would have been just the kind that Booth would have used on the stage; therefore I believe it was probably one he carried in some of the tragedies in which he played.

I will advise the owner of the pistol of your interest and you will undoubtedly hear from him shortly.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director

July 7, 1936

Mr. Wm. W. Wyman
Elsa, Texas

My dear Mr. Wyman:

We advised you upon your recent visit to Fort Wayne that we could contact the Colt Arms Company and let you know whether or not they were interested in the purchase of your pistol.

I have before me a letter of Mr. Albert Foster, Jr., Manager, Colt's Patent Fire Arms Company, Hartford, Connecticut, whose home address is 20 Vesey Street, New York, New York, and you should address him there.

Mr. Foster asks you to place a price upon the pistol.

I also have in mind a Chicago collector of Lincoln material to whom I have written who, I think, would possibly be interested in the curio. His name is Otto Eisenschiml, 1645 South Kilbourn Avenue, Chicago. You might write to him and describe the pistol and possibly he would be interested in its purchase.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director

174312	Broad rim under hammer	7 1/2" - Open barrel
36 cal	1861	13" - Full length
		Brass Back Trap - John Wilkes Booth
Cyl - 1212 Shifts engraved on cyls view, cyls.		
17.1dm Cal 12 Cal -		
New York U.S. America		



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